

THE  
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& BUILDING NEWS

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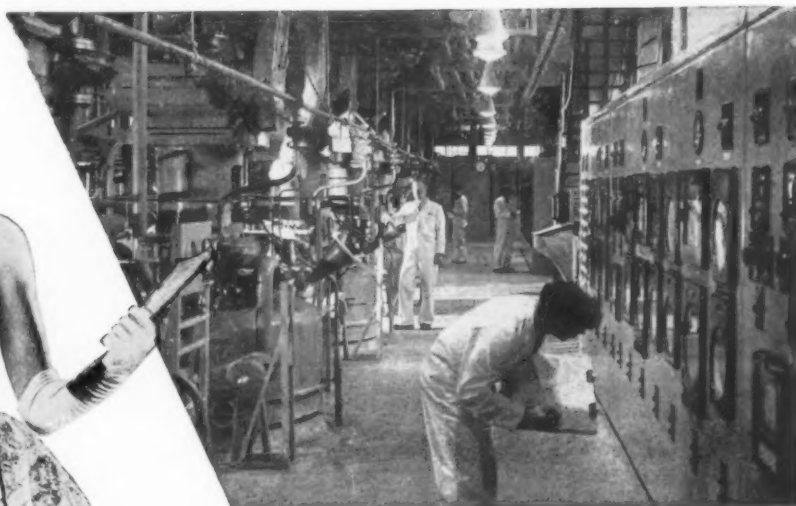
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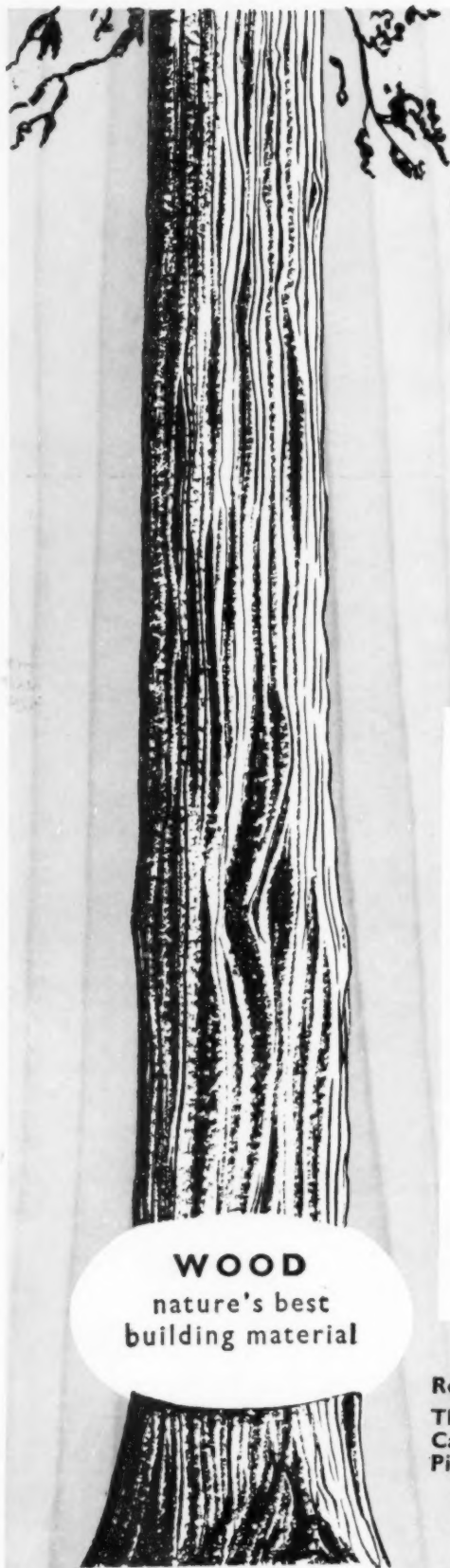
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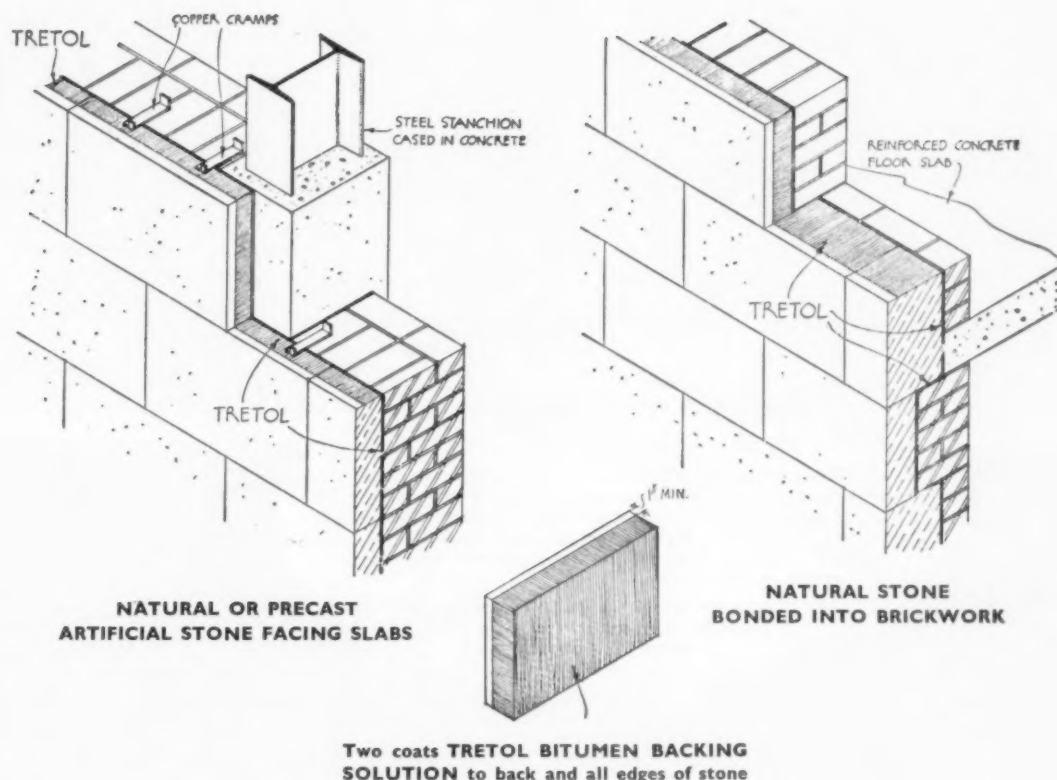


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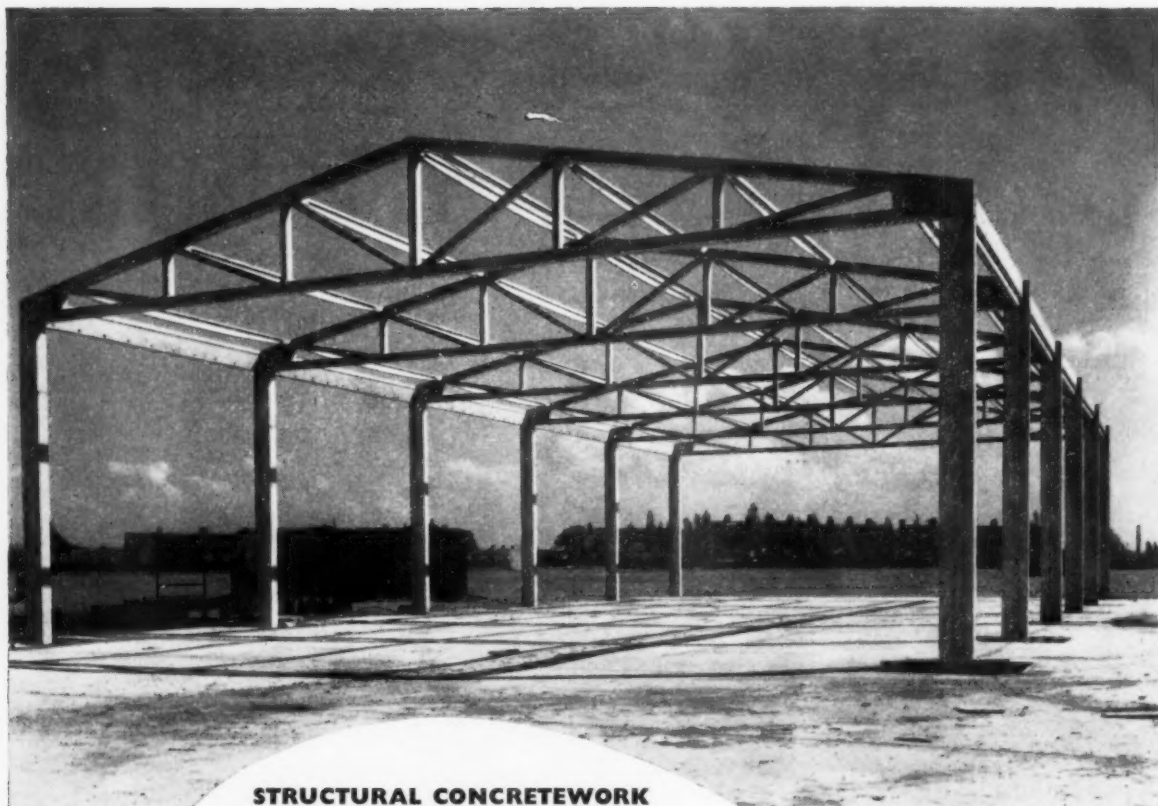
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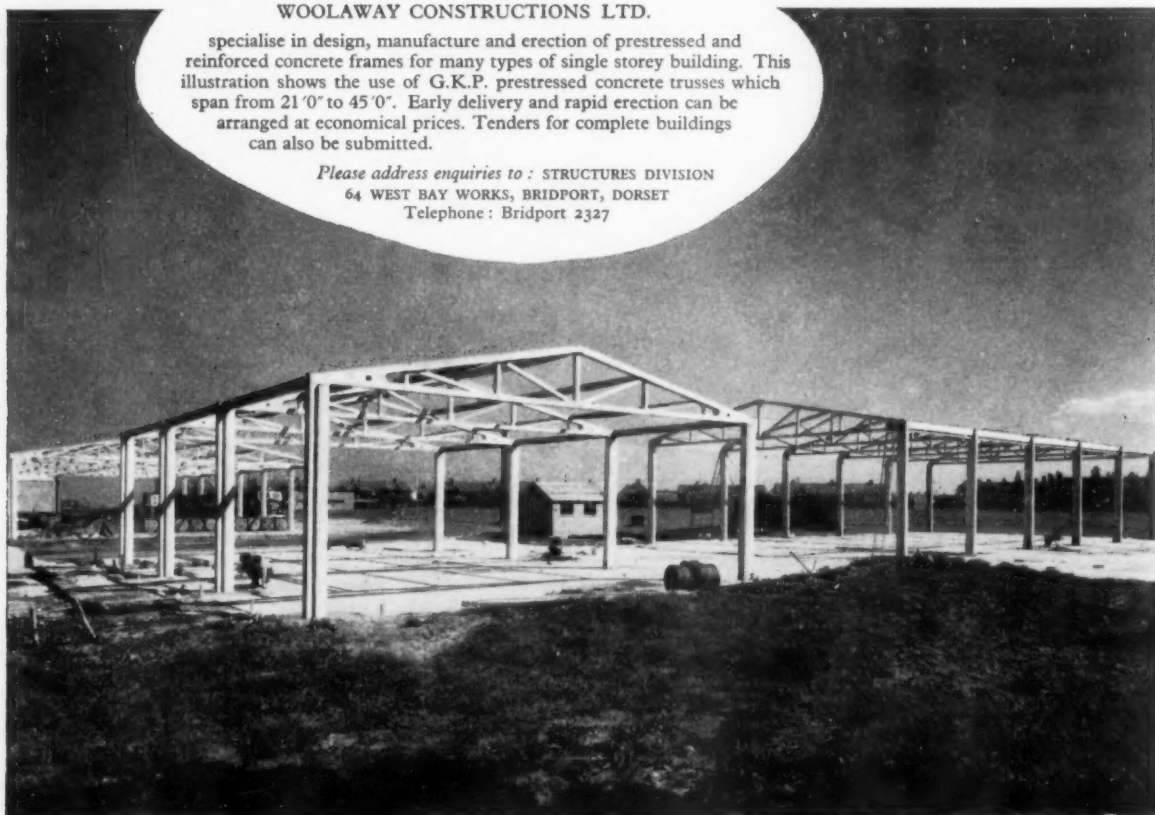


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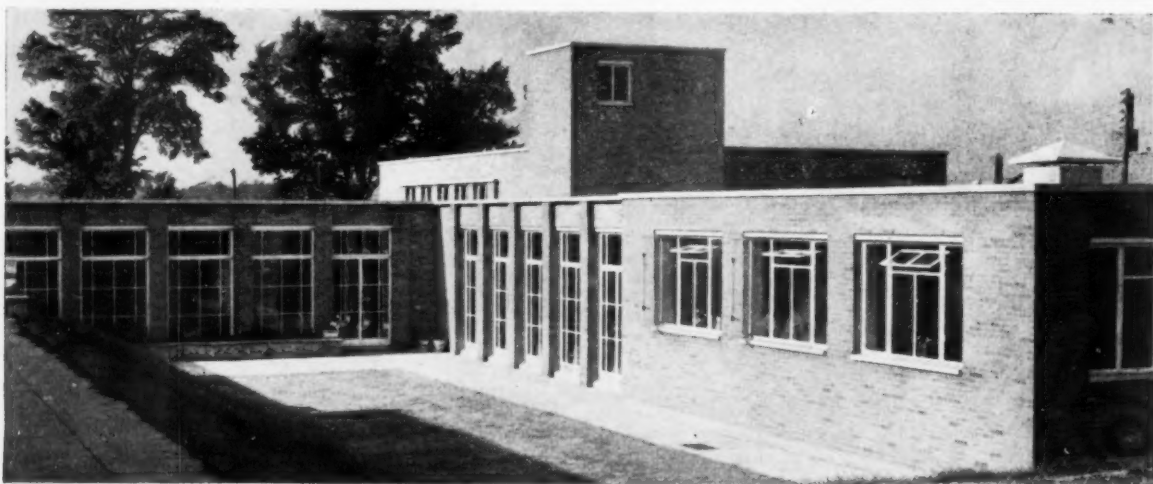
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## SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE N.F.B.T.E.

**D**URING 1955 there was plenty of work, and a reasonable measure of prosperity, for the building industry and the level of employment has been higher than ever. Despite this the problem of obtaining suitable building labour to man contracts has continued to be difficult in many areas, while the lack of balance between the crafts has seriously disturbed the rhythm of construction and output. In addition, some dislocation has again been caused by the lack of adequate supplies of building materials, notably re-inforcing rods. Although total building output has risen slightly during the year the situation cannot be regarded as healthy.

The nature of building work is such that some little time must elapse before any measures to change the level of building activity exert their full effect. It will obviously take some months to work off the bulk of the building work which is already in hand. The number of factory schemes approved but not yet started suggests that factory building is unlikely to fall away at present to any appreciable extent and some local authorities may be in a position to embark upon large schemes of slum clearance. The road construction programme, costing about £50 millions in 1956/57, and the hospital and school programmes are to stand. On the other hand, the economy measures which Government departments, nationalised industries and local authorities are being required to apply are likely soon to be reflected in a reduction in the amount of building work outstanding, while there are signs that the fall in the total number of houses started which has shown itself in 1955 will continue during 1956. It must be expected, too, that the credit squeeze will re-inforce the tendency, noted in previous Reports, towards consumer resistance to all kinds of building work. This is likely to affect first the smaller firms engaged primarily on maintenance work. The building industry must recognise that construction is such an important factor in investment that some reduction in building activity will be necessary if the Government's disinflationary policy is to be successful. If the result is merely to ease the existing conditions of over-full employment, the industry will not be unduly hurt, but there is a possibility that the process will go further and that the preparation of new work will be so delayed that there will not be sufficient jobs put out to keep the industry continuously employed.

In any case it is evident that the level of building costs will continue to be of paramount importance, and in this respect the example set in the last few weeks by a number of important building materials manufacturers in undertaking to make no increases in their domestic selling prices

for at least six months is particularly noteworthy. The materials covered by these guarantees—cement, stock bricks, plasterboard, metal windows, sand and gravel and tiles—represent a substantial proportion of the materials cost in many types of building work. This important development is bound to have some influence upon the willingness of building contractors to submit firm prices for their work, although it must be borne in mind that the guarantees of price stability are made in respect of a strictly limited period, within which no building contract of any size could hope to be completed. The time may, however, be opportune for the industry to consider dispensing with the fluctuation clause for materials in contracts intended to be completed within six months as a move in the direction of ultimate abolition of the clause altogether. This would give builders an added incentive to buy in the cheapest market and might, therefore, encourage manufacturers and merchants to make further efforts to keep their prices as low as possible. It would, moreover, reassure the small building owner, who is at present often deterred from risking his limited resources by uncertainty as to his commitments.

However much the success of an individual builder may be affected by factors largely beyond his direct control, there is still much he can do to improve his efficiency. The setting up of the Advisory Service for the Building Industry, to undertake surveys for building firms and to advise them on how to reduce their costs and to increase their efficiency; advances in building research; and the work of the Joint Consultative Committee of Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Builders are all indications that the industry is thinking ahead and is seeking, by these and other means, continually to improve its ability to supply the community with the buildings that are required at a cost which the national economy can afford.

(Paras. 1-11)

### Supply and Prices of Materials.

However much builders strive to improve the efficiency of their own internal organisation, their best efforts can, of course, be nullified in practice by a shortage of even one of the basic building materials. During the past year the supplies of bricks and cement have, taking the country as a whole, been about equal to the demand. But, mainly as a result of the high level of investment generally, including the sharply increased demand for factory building, the situation in regard to supplies of steel has seriously deteriorated. Although steel output has been at record levels, joists and sections of all sizes have been difficult to

Continued on page 143



## Events and Comments

### MISBOURNE SCHOOL OPENING

On 20th January I found myself in a packed Assembly Hall rather too warm perhaps, but also sympathetically glowing with pride to hear the speakers at an official opening warmly praising both architect and builder for a really remarkable achievement. The events that lead up to this happy occasion were as follows: On the 3rd December 1954 the Minister of Education sent out Circular 283 inaugurating his policy of building new schools in rural areas. On 14th January 1955 Bucks County Council sent in their proposals to M.O.E.; on 17th January sketch plans for Misbourne School on a site just outside Great Missenden followed. On 20th January M.O.E. approved proposals; on 26th January Bucks received approval of the sketch plans. On 6th May tenders were opened; on 10th June the contractors, Messrs Holloway Brothers commenced work; on 12th December 1955 they handed the school over to the County Council. On 19th December the pupils were in!

The job had been done in six months at average cost. It was the first school of its kind to be finished and so here we were facing a platform that would have delighted Mr Osbert Lancaster, graced by Sir David and Lady Eccles, the Lord Bishop of Buckingham, Lord Curzon (an admirable Chairman), the headmaster of the school, the County Architect Mr F. B. Pooley, and sundry Chairmen and officials whose drive and enthusiasm had helped to win the race for Bucks Education Committee.

Mr Lawrence Holloway was also present, but in the second row of the stalls. He must have felt the greatest satisfaction, and deserved all the tributes he received, for every speaker referred to both architect and builder with admiration. It is an age of speed, and when buildings too start moving fast, people sit up and take notice.

Sir David, perhaps because he was venturing into Earl Attlee country, took the opportunity to make a party political speech. He described the school as an advertisement for education and mentioned the Government's programme for technical colleges to take those children who wished to continue their education.

The children, both boys and girls, were present together with their proud parents, and sang their school song I thought with relief after the long programme of speeches and prayers.

The school provides 240 places for the 11-15 age group and caters for a curriculum with a strong rural bias. The plan is in three linked blocks, a practical block, a teaching block and assembly block which will also serve as a community centre.

Leaving regretfully before tea, I hurried out of this bright gay building, passed the dozens of parked cars, into the clear wintry dusk of Bucks up through the dear old High Street of Great Missenden to the homeward train.

Owing to the dispute in the Printing Trade this issue has had to be reduced in size, and copies may be late in reaching readers. To all who are inconvenienced in any way, we offer our sincere regrets in circumstances beyond our control.

### CATERING EXHIBITION

This exhibition at Olympia perhaps not unnaturally smells a bit of frying but is worth a visit. The enormous variety and range of cooks' mechanical aids should mean less work for the kitchen hands even if they do not actually improve the cooking. Much of the equipment shown looks to be of good design. There are, needless to say, several types of Italian-made espresso machines. Some people laugh at the external appearance of these café wurlitzers, but you should see their British imitators. There has been a lot of development work on automatic coin in-the-slot dispensers and some of them are not unsightly. I notice that one soft drink machine has a neat rack for empty bottles. I welcome these machines, suitable sited, as a means of getting a cold drink, for many are fitted with coolers. One dispenses both hot and iced coffee. It is clearly only a matter of time till the automatic pull is produced with a time switch to control opening hours.

Most restaurant furniture shown has learned nothing from the Espresso movement. Stock glass china and cutlery is as dull as ever, but I saw some plastic crockery of quite good shape in bright colours. The most interesting thing I saw was a new silent curtain track, which, if it is as good as it seems, is very good indeed. The exhibition has the usual show of cooks' art—I refer to icing sugar sculpture—St. Pauls, the Eiffel Tower, a Christmas Crib, a large "oil painting" in coloured marzipan, busts, villages, an oil tanker and so on. The waste of man hours must have been prodigious.

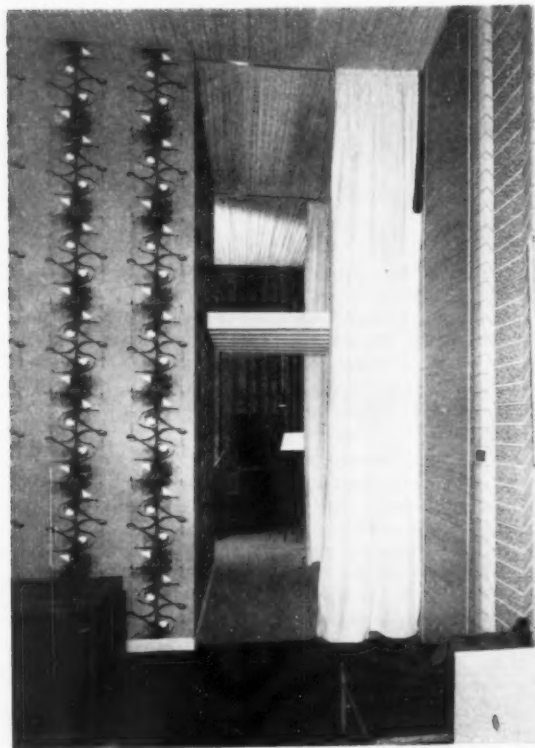
I noted with strong disapproval that cooks from the Services had competed in this confectioners' contest. My most recent experience of Army food leads one to suggest that the A.C.C. at any rate is not quite ready for even advanced work as the Concours Culinaire International de Londres.

Elsewhere in the exhibition I saw a fascinating inflatable hut about 20' x 30' which erected itself in about a minute, and a back wall to a stand finished not in pebble dash but coffee bean dash.

### DECORAMA

Sanderson's annual show of wallpapers and fabrics is a lush affair to be studied in four parts, the first consisting of the usual miniature rooms showing mainly formal patterned papers, the second a bright display of new contemporary designs in papers and fabrics, the third a further series of famous damasks reproduced from designs in the stately homes and fourth 'Flat 56' decorated and furnished by an R.C.A. team led by Sir Hugh Casson.





"Flat 56"—see paragraph headed "Decorama"

The popular press has already called the living room both Japanese and Etruscan—Japanese I suppose because of a Hi-Fi Black Box record-player in Chinese lacquer, and a charming fabric decorated by Sir Hugh with drawings of his visit to Peking. Why Etruscan I don't quite know unless it is because it is just now the vogue in Paris to be Etruscan.

The room is very high and the height is accentuated by furnishing it with an sunken white fur-lined play pit, plunge bath, paddling pool: as virtually the only place to sit, a row of low cupboards and screen. The general effect of this strangely exotic room is one of considerable luxury which comes partly from the white fur being brightly lit by a fitting not unlike a box kite standing on the floor. The walls, covered by hangings, are by contrast dark. The tiny study has a deep dark green Victorian feeling and a glitter of handsomely bound books and the bedroom a charming white bedstead. Some of the special wallpapers are to my mind remarkable only for their price.

The atmosphere of the flat is that of a rich stage set. Only the most beautiful person on earth should live in it. It would be nice to know her.

#### NEW FABRICS AT HEAL'S

By contrast Heal's new fabrics bring one back to earth with a bump. One or two of the ranges are pleasant enough but none is striking with the possible exception

of 'elegance' a delicate pattern reminiscent of hour-glass-like feminine waists.

It was a bright idea to put the charming hostesses into dresses made from some of the new fabrics.

#### MAINLY ABOUT BRAZIL

A record attendance at the AA last week heard Mr Gordon Graham of Nottingham, winner of the Marley Tile Co. travelling scholarship, speak on some of his architectural impressions of Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela.

This was no mere travel talk and Mr Graham evidently thoroughly enjoyed himself as the provincial architect (his description) in Bedford Square. Dividing his talk into three, Mr Graham who is a first class lecturer, spoke of the close integration of the arts in Brazil where the architect is artist above all; of their technical shortcomings and lack of suitable materials and of their lack of town planning.

We all know the tremendous variety of form shown in post-war Brazilian architecture, but it was a shock to see how many of Oscar Niemeyer's buildings are neglected and being turned to other uses, worst shock was the yacht club at Pampulha? which in all the "shinies" was seen standing by a large artificial lake. The dam that held the water in is busted and the dejected and neglected building now stands on a small hill in an arid desert. There were also stories of leaking concrete roofs and terrifying structural cracks in other buildings.

Mr Graham has invented the 180° shot for debunking architectural photography. He takes the usual ideal view and then turns his back on the building and takes another picture. This is usually enough to take the shine out of would-be pilgrims eyes. It might not be a bad thing if architectural papers were to make this idea a rule.

Outstanding character in South American architecture, besides Niemeyer, is in Mr Graham's opinion Candela, a Mexican of Spanish origin. He is his own engineer and builder, does no calculations and builds intersecting parabolic shell concrete roofs  $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick by intuition old boy and by knowing the materials. Mr Graham also thinks that we have yet to see Niemeyer's best work, he is his own fiercest critic, realises his faults and means to put them right. This in general is true of all architects of the modern movement in Brazil. Two basic facts emerge from Mr Graham's friendly de-bunking of the students' dream country. First the remarkable co-operation between all the visual arts in architecture and second the use of plastic form in concrete and the rejection of the frame except where cellular buildings are actually required. A third point worth thinking about is that whereas Brazilian architects have allowed themselves to experiment with revolutionary design forms, their technical knowledge has lagged behind and failures in the most famous of their buildings are common. The strange thing is that the architects reputations seem to be unimpaired. Could it happen here?

The part played by the Marley Tile Co. on the production of this excellent evening must not be overlooked. Several members of the company were present including Messrs Owen, Jack and Richard Aisher the moving genii. They deserve to be thanked here for showing how industry can help architecture. Their generous gift has already given many people a better knowledge of South American architecture and a great deal of pleasure—let us hope that their example will be followed by other enlightened manufacturers.

### LUNAR ARCHITECTURE

The news that a Buxton priest has bought an acre of Lunar land in order to build a church there has brought a sharp reaction from some of our leading writers of programmes for schools of architecture. The idea of a church on the moon, with site visits, has fairly caught the imagination of those who in terrestrial terms could see no further than three cathedrals on a rocky promontory.

### N.F.B.T.E. ANNUAL DINNER

The ballroom at the Dorchester seemed to me more crowded than ever for this annual festivity before the A.G.M. last week; but I was told that numbers were fewer than last year.

Speakers were the retiring President, Mr. Harvey G. Frost O.B.E.; the guest of honour, the new Minister of Works, Mr. Patrick Buchan-Hepburn; the senior vice-president, Mr. Nigel Hannen who proposed the guests and Mr. Hugh Lyon, Director, Public Schools Appointments Bureau who replied for them.

Mr. Frost spoke in the way all good presidents should. Mr. Buchan-Hepburn's speech contained no surprises. The occasion was a new experience for him to be out on the first night of a session of Parliament, as he has for some time past done M.P. watching at Westminster. He was Conservative Chief Whip.

Mr. Hannen had some worth while things to say sometimes in verse. Mr. Lyon's speech was polished. Nothing less could be expected from an ex Headmaster of Rugby and the current chairman of the Marriage Guidance Council. Taken prisoner by the Germans in World War I, he formed his own concert party in which he was star comedian, script writer and singer; Stanley Hearder Director of the N.F.B.T.E. was a prisoner of war in the same camp and supports the story.

### DARTMOOR

The Architectural Press has published, for the Devon County Council, a very good little guide addressed to anyone who may be concerned with building in the Dartmoor National Park. Siting, design, materials and colours are discussed and there is a powerful section on Do's and Don'ts. The price is modest at 5s but I would have preferred to have paid for a stronger binding. My review copy is already bursting at the seams. No authors or editors are named in the book but they should be thanked for producing something so reasonably argued and well illustrated. Most of the pictures

are of old buildings and much is made of the local tradition, at the same time it is pointed out that modern architecture, sensitively handled by architects who know and understand the past, should be encouraged there as elsewhere.

ABNER

### Correspondence

Dear Sir,—An appeal on behalf of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, has recently been launched by Lord Chandos and we have promised to assist him by approaching friends in the building industry for their help for a cause which we believe in and are supporting.

We are writing to ask for the courtesy of your columns to indicate the object of the appeal and to invite your readers to give it their support.

These Clubs are for boys in their early working years when they most need discipline, guidance and friendship during their leisure time. Unless they receive some kind of training during these impressionable years many waste them and deteriorate morally and physically, and some of them get into serious trouble. A strong fence at the top of a precipice is far better than a well-equipped ambulance at the bottom. It is also much cheaper because it costs about £365 a year to train a boy in an Approved School or Borstal. A Boys' Club does not cost more than £15 a year per boy and is a remarkably sound fence.

In a Club boys meet together under wise leadership, work off their superfluous energy in competitive sport, are encouraged to accept responsibility and take part in many useful activities. But for half the boys in this country the street corner is still the best attended Club because they have no other. This problem will become rapidly more serious because by the early 1960's the numbers of boys between 15 and 18 will be 30 per cent. greater than it is today. It is for this reason that the National Association of Boys' Clubs is raising a fund from which to supplement local money-raising funds for new Boys' Clubs, especially in new housing areas. Once the Club is established it is largely self-supporting.

Boys' Clubs help boys to become good husbands, good fathers, good workers and good citizens and we hope, therefore, that we can count on the enthusiastic support of all firms and organisations in the building industry for this great cause.

Donations should be sent to:

The National Association of Boys' Clubs,  
17 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

Deeds of Covenant are, of course, particularly valuable as the Association can recover income tax. The appropriate forms can be sent on request.

We are, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

ASHCOMBE,

Chairman, Holland & Hannen and Cubitts Ltd.,  
London, S.W.1.

HARVEY G. FROST,

President, National Federation of Building  
Trades Employers, London, W.1.

Dear Sir,

Abner asks what happens when a helicopter motor stops (A.&B.N. 12-1-56). The answer simply: the motor blades freewheel and their speed can be retarded and a safe landing can be made on any convenient space. Do helicopters look wrong? Has Abner ever seen a dragon fly?

Permanent landing sites are another problem. How

many apparently convenient spaces—roofs or ground—have adequate access or are free from overhead wiring, trees or similar clutter, in the average town?

Yours faithfully,

JOHN A. ELLIS.

Dear Sir,

So Abner wants to know what happens when the motor of a helicopter stops.

Well it all depends on the position of the helicopter at the time. If it is sitting on the ground all that happens is that there's a sudden hush and the fan stops going round.

If, however, it is up in the air, the fan becomes a revolving parachute and the helicopter sinks gently to the ground still under perfect control. Simple, isn't it?

I'm sorry that the helicopter has evidently disappointed Abner in not being about to land anywhere — which he thought "was the whole point of the thing."

Regretfully, we have to confess that this "herald of the millennium" as Abner calls it, cannot land on a church spire, a streetful of trolley bus wires, or the glass roof of Abner's greenhouse (if he has one).

And that is why (tell Abner) it is considered a good idea to provide city landing places which are free from such obstructions, such as a floating platform on the River Thames: which provides a nice safe approach and an equally easy departure.

Incidentally, Abner's news about the Oban firm which is to use a helicopter for carrying building materials to an inaccessible site isn't so new. BEA did a very similar job with a helicopter several years ago, when an inaccessible dam among the Welsh hills above Portmadoc had to be repaired. So what the "respectable Southern helicopter which comes from Gatwick" has done before, it can doubtless repeat, if necessary.

Finally, what a bold man is Abner to dismiss talk of space travel as "utter bilge."

I can imagine his grandfather saying the same sort of thing about nuclear fission and television 80 years ago!

Yours faithfully,

NORMAN D. RYDER.

## NEWS

### Salaried Employment and Structure of the Profession Reports

The current number of the RIBA Journal (January, price 2/6) prints in full two reports on Salaried Employment and Structure of the Profession, namely the First Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Committee under the Chairmanship of Richard Sheppard FRIBA appointed to examine the Representation of Members of the RIBA in Salaried Employment and to review the Structure of the Profession; and the Report of the Salaried and official Architects Committee on the Representation of Salaried Architects (Chairman Leonard C. Howitt FRIBA) which was submitted to the Council of the RIBA in February 1954.

### Building Costs

The British Plaster Board (Holdings) Limited announce their decision to contribute further to the campaign to arrest inflation and stem the rising tide of costs, by undertaking that, in addition to the announcement already made by the Plaster Board Industry, there will be no increase in the present prices of the gypsum rock and plasters sold by their subsidiaries, at any rate until 30th June, 1956.

It is pointed out that action of this kind by private industry, can only be effective for a limited period and over a limited field unless there is positive action in support by the nationalised industries, the Trade Unions and the Government.

### APPOINTMENT

Mr. Duncan Sandys, Minister of Housing and Local Government, has



Mr Nigel Hannen, the new President of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers. Mr Hannen, who was educated at Radley and Trinity Hall, is a Past-President of the L.M.B.A. (1949). The present chairman of his firm is Lord Ashcombe, a great grandson of Thomas Cubitt.

appointed Dr. W. G. Hoskins, M. Sc., Ph.D., M.A., to the Committee which advises him on matters concerning buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

Dr. Hoskins, who is Reader in Economic History at Oxford University, is an authority on the historical and architectural development of buildings. He is a member of the Mediaeval Research Committee of the Council of British Archaeology, and author of a number of publications on the history of the English countryside.

## COMING EVENTS

### The Modular Society Ltd.

February 6 at 7.30 p.m. Report from officers of The Building Research Station and The British Standards Institution upon their joint programme of research in modular co-ordination under the auspices of the European Productivity Agency. At The Royal Society of Arts.

### Cement and Concrete Association

February 7, at 7.15 p.m. "Concrete placing and formwork", by A. B. Harman, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., at the County Technical College, Stafford.

### The Royal Institute of British Architects

February 7, at 6 p.m. President's Address to Students. Criticism by G. Grenfell Baines, A.M.T.P.I., A.R.I.B.A., of work submitted for Prizes and Studentships. Presentation of Prizes.

### The Architectural Association

February 8, at 6.15 p.m. Informal Illustrated talk. "Collioure-Pyrenees," by Percy Johnson-Marshall. Tickets not required.

### Town and Country Planning Association

February 9, at 6 p.m. "Who Should Own The New Towns"? Local Authorities? Business Firms? Specially-created Public Authorities? A discussion meeting, opened by George Lindgren, M.P. Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning when the New Towns Act was passed, and W. Eric Adams, C.B.E., until recently General Manager of Harlow Development Corporation. At The Planning Centre, 28 King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. Tickets 2/6 each.

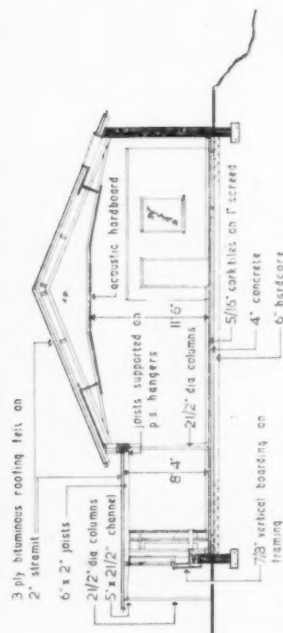
# Art of Movement Studio Addlestone

ARCHITECTS:  
WESTWOOD SONS  
& HARRISON  
F.F.R.I.B.A.



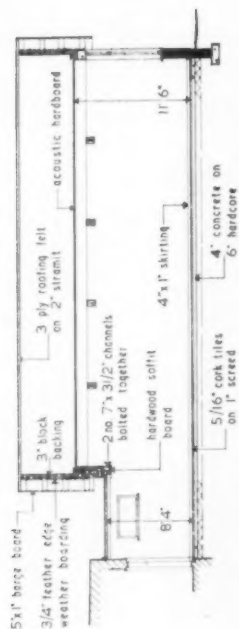
**T**HIS building, known as a "saltarium", is an extension to the existing school where movement and special forms of dancing are studied. The new building was required to provide an additional studio for the work of the school and to incorporate a space for an audience and a recess for the piano so that the main floor could be left free. The most important consideration was the floor which had to be very smooth and reasonably resilient. The room generally had to be simple

*Continued on p. 135*

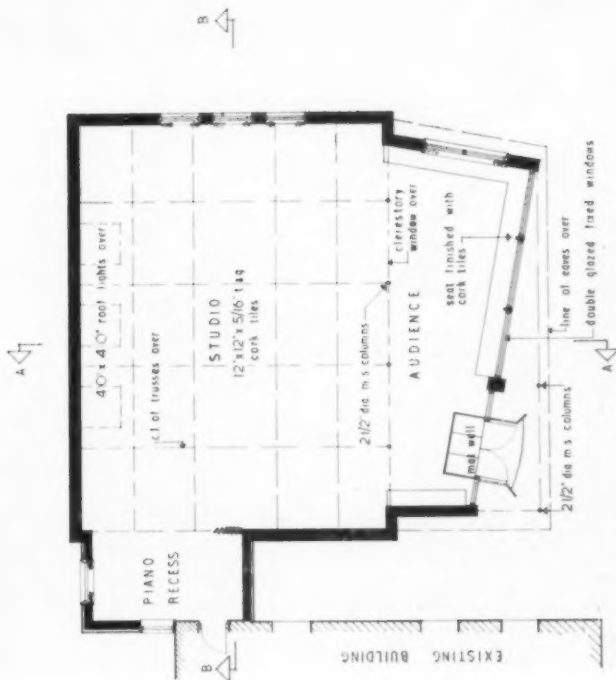


SECTION A A





SECTION BB

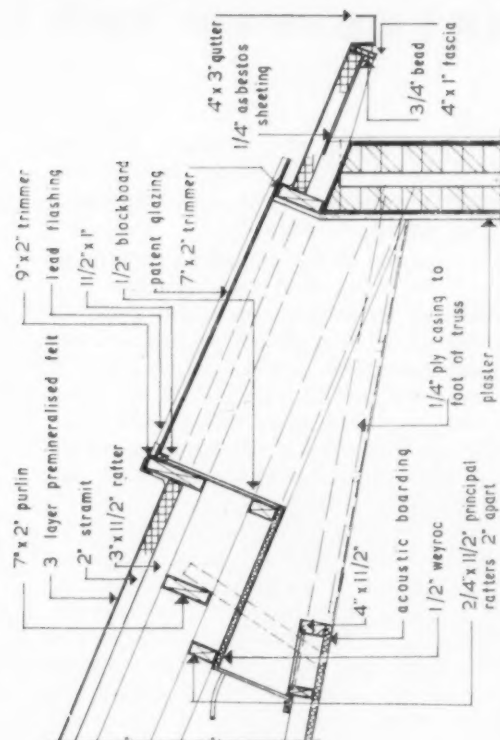


SCALE: 1 in = 16 ft

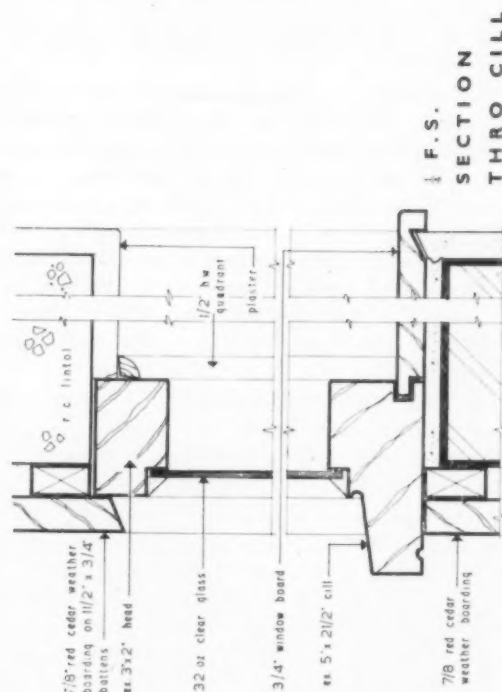




**Art of Movement Studio, Addlestone, Surrey**



SECTION THRO ROOFLIGHT. SCALE: 1 in = 2 ft

F.S.  
SECTION  
THRO CILL

so that there should be no competition from the building which would take away from the movement of the dancers. Reasonable resonance was required so that the piano should not be muffled, but otherwise it was important to damp down the noise of the dancing.

Approximately £3,500 was available for the entire project and the scheme was worked out on very simple lines. An acoustic ceiling was suspended from the centre part of the lower members of the prefabricated timber trusses, see section. Adjacent to the walls the ceiling was carried up on the upper members. This provided a means of housing concealed lighting and also provided ventilation. The back wall was plain plaster with roof lights so that the dancers could be seen partly in silhouette—see photograph. The only material which could be found to meet the requirements for the floor, at the price within the limits of the budget, was cork tile. The hard smooth surface was obtained by applying a special synthetic sealer.

The walls were painted a greenish grey with bright green columns. This contrasted with the varnished hard wood. The window frames were painted white and the curtains were black and white. The general effect was one of freshness without conflicting with the colours of the costumes generally used by the school.

Heating is by means of electric convectors.

The external treatment was as follows:

The roof was covered with mineral felt laid on stramit board and the walls of the studio were finished with a Tyrolean rendering and Keruing hardwood, weather boarding, and Vitreflex gutters and down pipes were used.

The cost of the building complete, worked out at 43/- per foot super and 3/6d per foot cube.

The Contractors were Messrs. Geo. Jarvis & Co of Church Street, Weybridge.

## FLATS AT JUDD STREET FOR THE

Architect: DENIS CLARKE HALL

THE architect was commissioned in 1949 to prepare sketch plans for the development of the site bounded by Judd Street shown in the block plan on this page. The development was to take place in two separate stages. The first stage comprising almost exactly half was to be built on and forms the subject of this article; but the whole site was to be considered together for sketch plan purposes to ensure a unified scheme. The council in commissioning the architect hoped he might bring a fresh mind to bear on the peculiar problems involved.

The council's requirements were for the maximum number of flats which density restrictions would permit, with the ground floor and basement used for other accommodation, particularly shops.

At the time sketch plans were prepared, the construction of the "A" ring road was proposed and it was thought that it might well be built in the foreseeable future. The route of this main traffic artery was scheduled to follow the line of Leigh Street and would cut the site off from a shopping centre existing in Marchmont Street. Because of the possible construction of this ring road as many shops as possible were to be provided at ground floor level on all three frontages of the site. Subsequently the planning of the "A" ring road was dropped and various modifications were made to the scheme. Another factor which influenced the form of the building was the severe day lighting considerations and angles of light restrictions caused by the site being bounded on three sides by comparatively narrow roadways.

### Accommodation

In the interests of structural planning and economy each floor plan has been kept identical. Floors 1-7 inclusive include 1 one-room flat, 2 two-room flats and

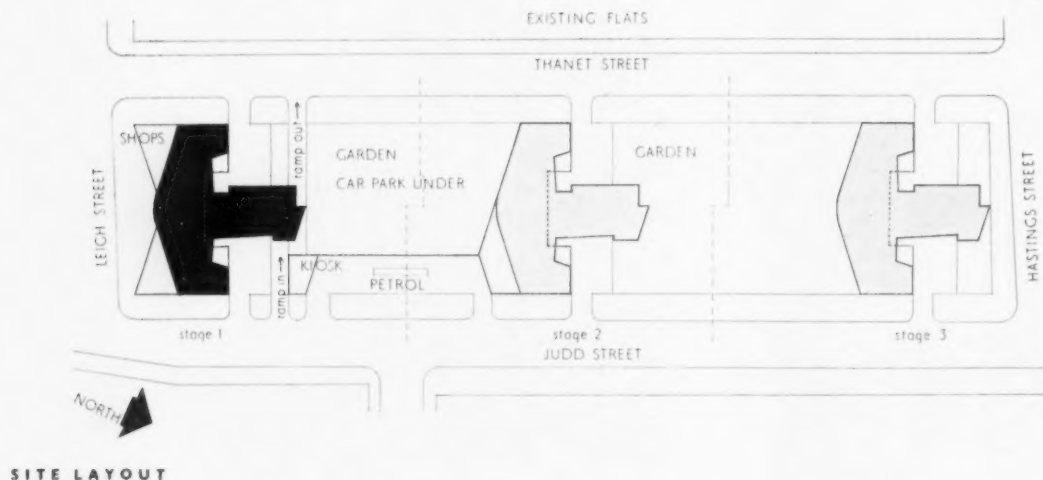
3 three-room flats per floor, while the eighth floor has 2 two-room flats and 2 three-room flats. The remaining space has been planned to include a children's play room with play terrace and a laundry.

No flats are planned on the ground floor, partly as the whole of the street level accommodation was originally intended for shop premises, and also it is considered that the problem of noise, dirt, access and refuse disposal renders such flats in the central area of London, unsuitable. Further it is felt that on busy street frontages a different scale is called for near and at eye level. The ground floor area has therefore, been treated in an entirely different manner to the flats above and thus dissociated from them by an intermediate level slab projecting beyond the normal line of building and forming the ceiling of the shops. The garden is intended for the tenants use solely. Part of the area is set aside for children and it is hoped to provide suitable play objects for them. Both the garden and car park under will be extended to approximately twice the present size when the second stage of the project is completed. The car park accommodates up to about 30 cars and is provided with dual escapes and an artificial ventilating system.

### Structure

The architect required a minimum thickness slab with a flush soffit throughout and this was the principle problem facing the Structural Engineer. A solution was found in using a reinforced concrete frame with the column spacing not exceeding approximately 12' 0" in both directions, beams being 7½" deep x 24" wide. To provide the flush soffit, 4" thick slab panels were made to line with the underside of beams and were reinforced in both directions. The 3½" difference of levels between slabs and beam tops has been used for service runs on

*Continued on p. 138*



## SAINT PANCRAS BOROUGH COUNCIL

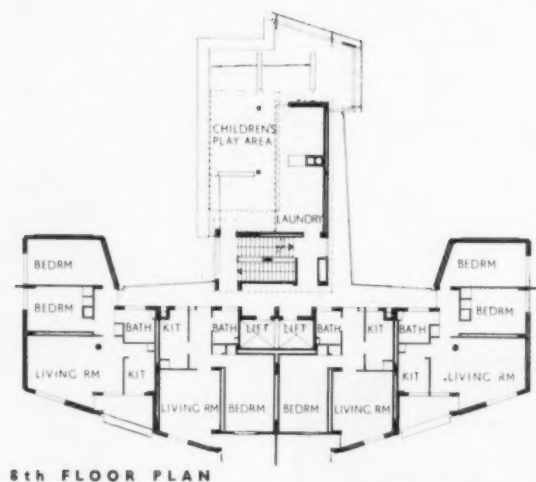
*Assistants in charge: H. S. SCORER & D. J. DUPREE*

*Engineering Consultants: C. W. GLOVER & PARTNERS*

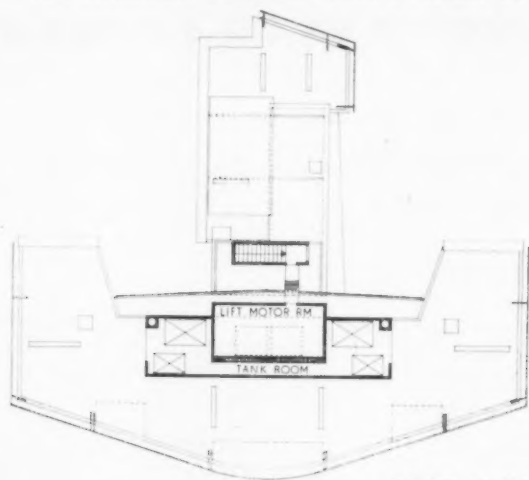
*Quantity Surveyors: CLEVELY & BASS*



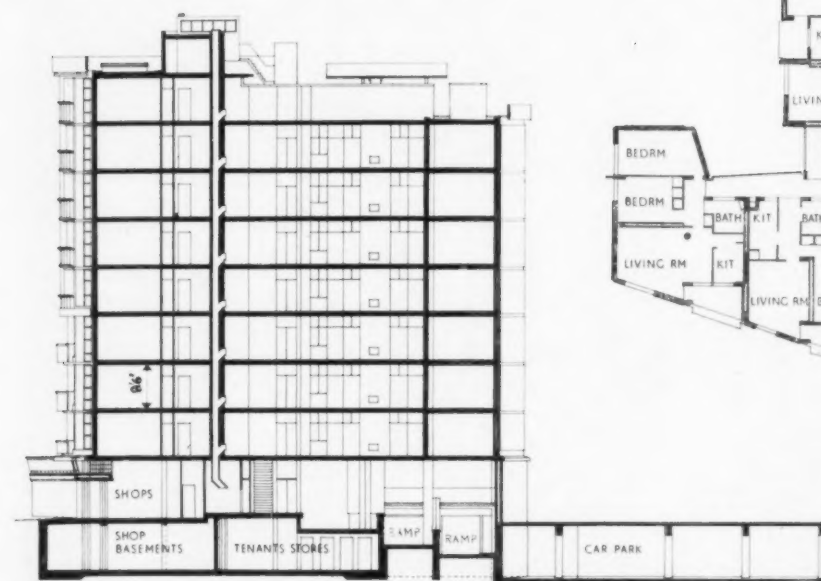




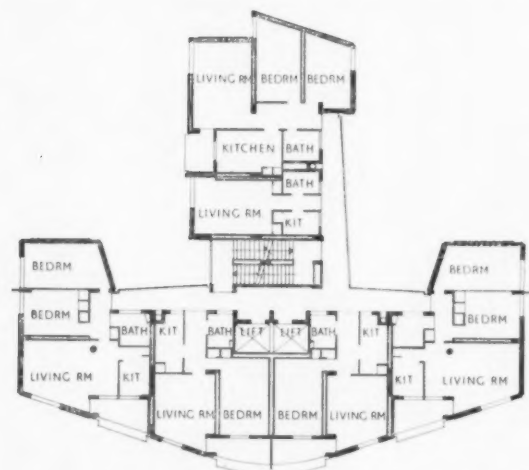
8th FLOOR PLAN



ROOF PLAN



SECTION



FLOORS 1st — 7th

SCALE: 1 in = 32 ft

## Judd Street Flats, St. Pancras

*Continued from p. 136*

the coved surface of the upper side and is covered with lightweight screed of Leca concrete, levelled to approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " above the beam tops. A sand/cement screed on top of this provides a suitable base for the floor finish.

### General Construction

Panel walls: Outer skin  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " flint lime bricks, a 2" sealed cavity and 4" inner skin of hollow clay blocks plastered inside.

Balcony walls: 6" hollow clay blocks rendered externally and plastered internally. Columns forming part of

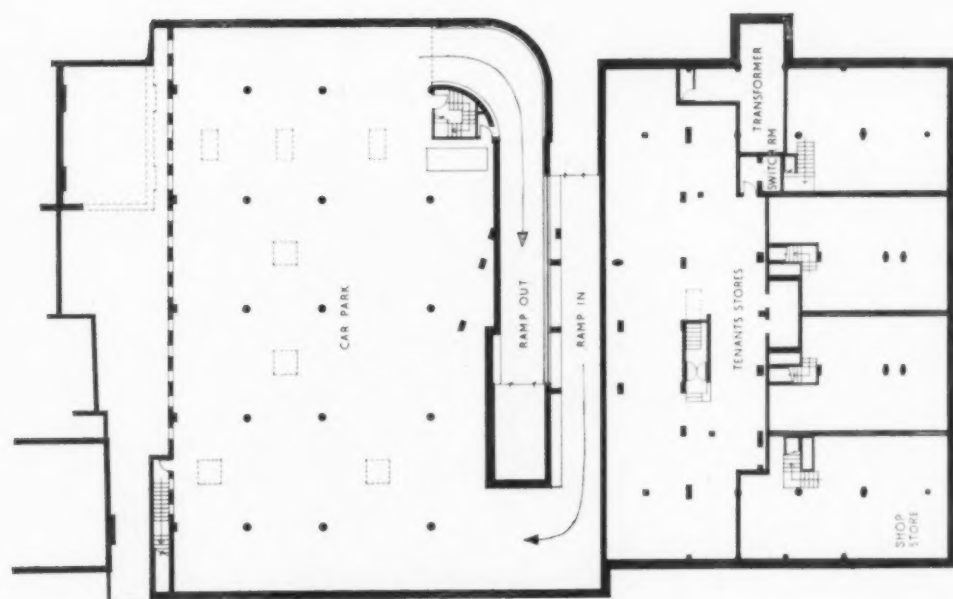
the external walls are lined on the inside face with 1" cork slabs stuck to the columns with Synthaprufe.

Internal partitions; 4",  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and 2" hollow clay blocks with special conduit blocks for electrical droppings, etc.

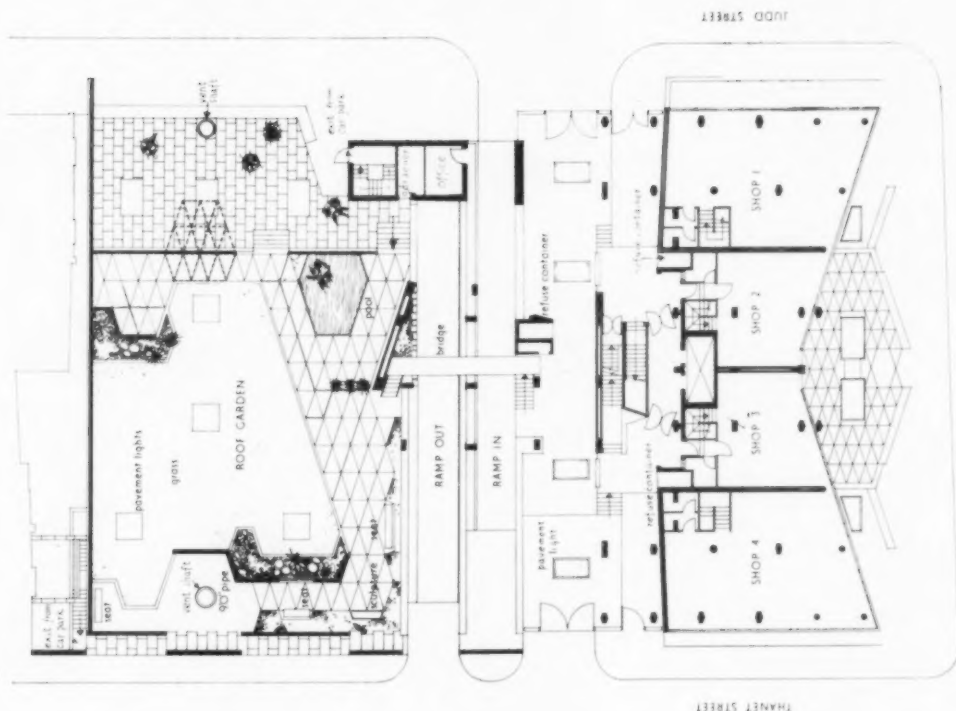
### Finishes

Fair faced concrete; painted with Duresco's Brewery Paint. Other concrete surfaces, columns and floor edges; brushed to expose the coarse aggregate of the concrete and to provide a rough weathering surface. The finish was obtained by brazing the surface of the concrete with a manually operated power driven wire brush.

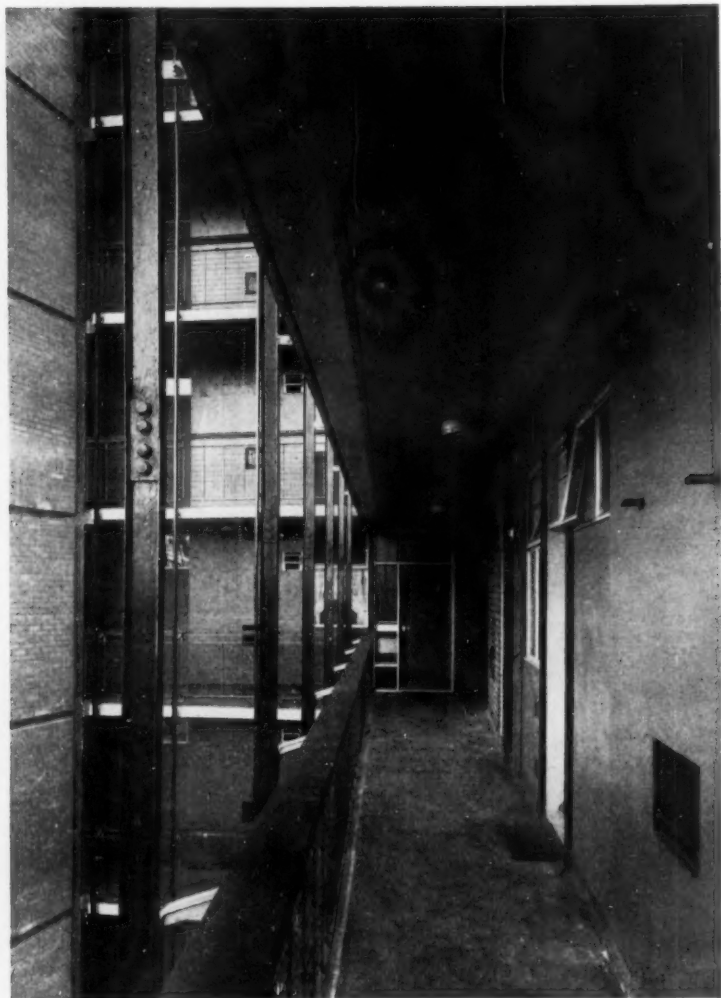
*Continued on p. 140*



BASEMENT PLAN.



GROUND FLOOR



Access balcony

## Judd Street Flats, St. Pancras

Continued from p. 138

immediately after striking the form work and while the concrete was still green.

Brick Panels: Uxbridge flint lime bricks in terra cotta, purple and buff, with pointing to match. Windows: standard steel opening casements in soft wood frames with fixed lights glazed direct. External painting; fairly bright colours have been used to give vertical emphasis, and the decoration is linked to the facade division. Internal Painting: on walls and ceilings a special one coat emulsion paint Oxadec. On kitchen and bathroom walls and ceiling, two coats D.E.C. emulsion. All timber and metal work finished in Silcolac enamel. Ceilings are plastered with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " Crestone direct on to the concrete slab. This material renders it unnecessary to hack the concrete surface. Walls are plastered in two coats; the setting coat being Paristone gypsum plaster. Contract price approximately £144,000.

### General contractors:

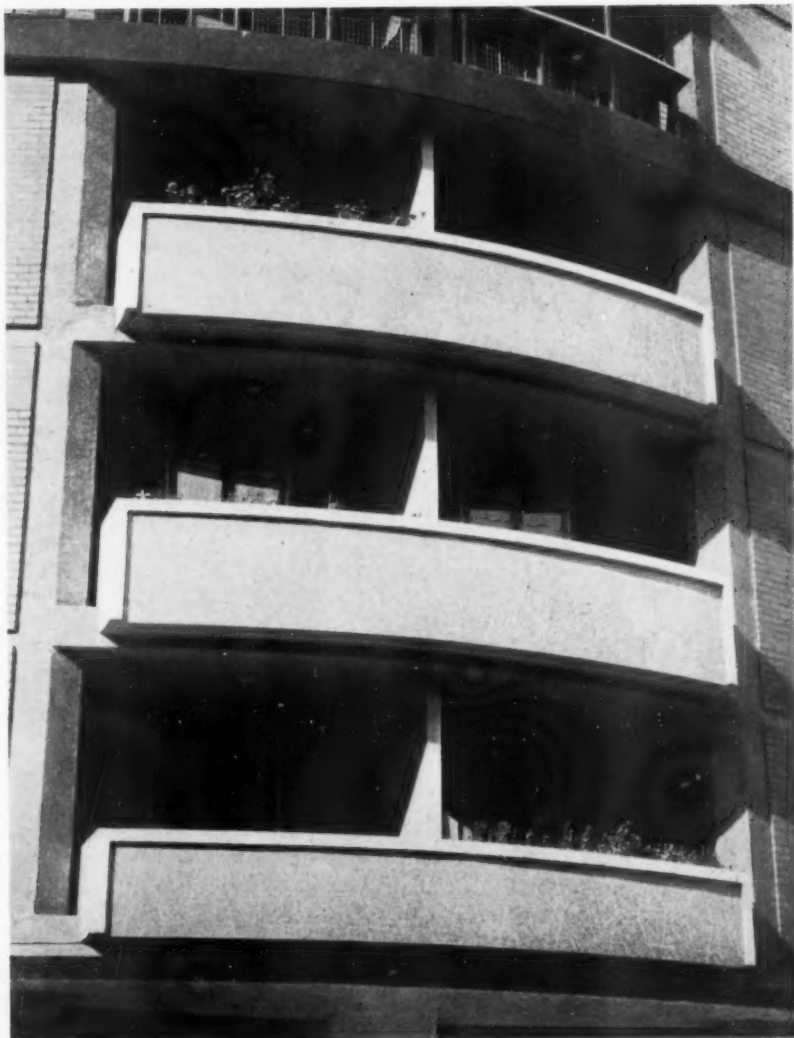
Gee, Walker & Slater Ltd.

### Sub-contractors:

Asphalte & Tarmacadam: Excel Asphalte Co. Ltd.  
Balustrading—Metal: Scaffolding (Gt. Britain) Ltd.  
Bricks: Eastwoods Ltd.—Stocks: London Brick Co. Ltd.—Flettons: Uxbridge Flint Brick Co. Ltd.—Facings, Commemorative Plaque: Marriott & Price Ltd. Concrete: Leca Concrete Ltd. Concrete—Aggregates: Ham River Grit Co. Ltd. Damp-proof coursing: Permanite Ltd. Drying Cupboard Units: Bratt Colbran Ltd.; Cowper Penfold Ltd.; Radiation Ltd. Electrical Installation: G. W. Franklin & Sons Ltd. Electrical Supply: London Electricity Board. Fencing, Gates, etc.: Scaffolding (Gt. Britain) Ltd. Fittings: A. J. Binns Ltd. Gas Fires, Radiators: Bratt Colbran Ltd.; Cowper Penfold Ltd.; Radiation Ltd. Gas Installation: Ellis (Kensington) Ltd. Gas Service: North Thames Gas Board. Glass: Faulkner Greene & Co. Ltd.; Pyglass Ltd.—Coloured, Glazing: Faulkner Greene & Co. Ltd. Granolithic Paving: Humphries & Bailey Ltd. Handrailing—Timber: Scaffolding (Gt. Britain) Ltd. Horticultural Work: William Wood & Sons Ltd. Ironmongery: Nettlefold & Moser Ltd. Lifts: Express Lift Co. Ltd. Liquid Colouring: Sealocrete Products Ltd. Paints: Duresco Products Ltd. Partition Blocks: London Brick Co. Ltd. Paving: Marriott & Price Ltd.; St. Pancras Borough Council (Highways Department). Pavement Lights: J. A. King & Co. Ltd. Plaster: Gyproc Products Ltd. Plastering: Humphries & Bailey Ltd. Pre-cast Terrazzo: Marriott & Price Ltd. Radio & Television Relay: London Rediffusion Service Ltd. Refuse Chutes: Broad & Co. Ltd. Rolling Shutters: Dreadnought Fireproof Doors Ltd. Roofing Felt: Wm. Briggs & Sons Ltd. Site Investigation: Le Grand Sutcliffe & Gell. Soil Pipes: B. Finch & Co. Ltd. Sprinkler Installation: Automatic Sprinkler Co. Ltd. Thermoplastic Tile Floors: Semtex Ltd. Ventilation (Car Park): Gee, Walker & Slater Ltd. Wall Tiling: Humphries & Bailey Ltd. Water Heaters: Ascot Gas Water Heaters Ltd. Waterproofing: The National Coal Board. Water Supply: Metropolitan Water Board. Windows—Metal: Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Window Frames—Timber: Gee, Walker & Slater Ltd.

Down to the car park





Balconies to centre flats

Living room to side flats, showing structural column in left hand picture







Judd Street flats, St. Pancras. Architect : Denis Clarke Hall.

*Continued from page 127*

obtain throughout the year and many rolling mills have been unable to take orders for re-inforcing rods even for delivery ten or twelve months ahead. Serious, although possibly temporary, shortages of glass, especially sheet, were reported at the end of the year.

Building materials prices have risen appreciably during the course of the year and by October the Board of Trade Index was some 6 per cent. above the average for 1954. Of particular importance in this respect, on account of either the quantities used or the extent of the rise in price, are roofing slates, bricks and many steel and cast-iron products; but the price increases have been widely spread.

(*Paras. 12 and 13*)

#### **Advisory Service for the Building Industry.**

The scheme for the establishment of the Advisory Service for the Building Industry is now making substantial progress. In October the Committee of Management decided that the Service was ready to undertake paid assignments and an announcement to that effect was made to the industry and an advertising leaflet widely distributed. The resulting enquiries have been numerous and at the end of the year the Service was fully booked for some weeks ahead. In addition to the advisory work for individual firms the staff of the Service have prepared material for a series of short week-end courses on work study and site organisation. Several of these courses, which will last over four week-ends, are planned to be held in London and the provinces during 1956. They are designed to benefit in the main the smaller and medium-sized firms who can send a supervisor or principal for a few hours of instruction at week-ends.

(*Paras. 18-20*)

#### **Joint Consultative Committee of Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Builders.**

The Joint Consultative Committee of Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Builders, which was established in 1954 following the Report of the Howard Robertson Committee on Tendering Procedure to press for the implementation of the recommendations of that Committee and of the Simon Report on the Placing and Management of Building Contracts, has considerably extended its activities during the year and may now be regarded as constituting an essential forum for the discussion of common problems by the contracting and professional sides of the industry.

The most important recommendation of the Howard Robertson Committee was that the system of open or "indiscriminate" tendering should be replaced by a system under which "competition should, in the case of each contract, be limited to firms who have been carefully selected, according to the size and type of contract, as being capable of, and likely to do, work of the required standard." Although many building owners and Government departments, including the Ministry of Works, have adopted the practice of selective tendering, it was made clear during the year by the Association of Municipal Corporations that they did not favour any suggestion that local authorities should be required to adopt it. Accordingly the Officers of the Joint Consultative Committee decided to discuss the position with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and at a meeting early in December they explained to the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr. W. F. Deedes) the case for the recommendation and the desirability of ministerial support for it. Mr. Deedes promised that full consideration would be given to the arguments put forward by the deputation.

(*Paras. 21-26*)

#### **Building Research.**

During 1955 there has been a further extension of the Federation's activities in the field of building research. The establishment of a Liaison Committee between the Federation and the Building Research Station followed,

and developed logically from, the collaboration between the Federation and the Research Station in the full-scale trials of the results of research. Problems raised at meetings of the Liaison Committee include (i) the durability and weather excluding qualities of certain new compounds used for fixing and stopping metal windows, (ii) the spread of insect attack on wood and (iii) the practical value to builders of the weather forecasting service of the Meteorological Office. As the result of a suggestion made by a member of the Committee, the Research Station propose to investigate whether there is a need for a smaller mixer to produce quality concrete.

The first two subjects of the full-scale trials were:— (1) the use of air-entrained mortars for (a) external renderings and, (b) internal undercoats for plaster; and (2) the use of zinc oxy-chloride paint as an additional means of attempting to prevent the spread of dry rot in timber. A third experiment now in progress is concerned with the problems connected with the flues and chimney stacks serving domestic slow-combustion stoves and boilers. More than 300 replies have been received from members to a questionnaire drawn up by the Station in conjunction with the Building Research and Technical Information Committee. Over half the replies indicated that the members concerned had experienced flue trouble in some form or other, and these firms have been asked to reply to a further questionnaire. A limited number of members are to be asked to carry out actual experiments under the guidance of the Station.

(*Paras. 27-35*)

#### **Building Safety.**

The prevention of accidents on building sites is, from the very nature of building work, a matter of considerable difficulty. The total number of reported accidents in building increased from 9,649 in 1948 to 13,903 in 1954 and the rate per thousand employed rose from 11.4 in 1948 to 17.1 in 1953. These cold statistics provide a vivid reminder of the loss incurred not only by the individuals directly involved and their employers but also, through the heavy cost of insurance premiums, by the industry generally. At the same time it would be wrong not to recognize that many building employers, particularly those engaged on the larger contracts, fully appreciate their moral and legal responsibilities and, by good organisation and supervision of their jobs, by strict adherence to the Safety Regulations and by continual safety propaganda among all grades of their employees, have succeeded in improving their accident records. The Federation's Building Regulations and Welfare Committee has the responsible duty of stimulating an equal degree of safety-consciousness among the general body of builders. It has already examined a number of suggested steps which might be taken and has asked Regional Federations to give further consideration to them and to arrange for special attention to be given to the whole question either by the appointment of Regional Safety Committees or in such other manner as may be appropriate. The Committee has emphasised particularly the value of training in safety measures for general foremen, apprentices and younger operatives generally and has suggested that the necessary provisions should be included in the National Apprenticeship Scheme.

(*Paras. 36-39*)

#### **Labour Relations.**

Much attention has been given to various aspects of long-term policy connected with the wage-structure of the industry. While appreciating that the present Joint Agreement and Working Rules, administered by the National Joint Council, have served the industry well and are a model of their kind, the N.F.B.T.E. Council has felt that the development of modern technique and practice may be such as to warrant re-examination of some of the basic

principles embodied in the Working Rules. In the belief that an independent investigation might prove helpful the Council has invited Mr. D. N. Chester, C.B.E., Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford, to conduct a thorough examination of the position.

Another policy issue which has loomed large during 1955 has been that of demarcation disputes arising from conflicting claims by different craft unions to exclusive rights to perform the same operations. Although in some connections unions have achieved greater flexibility in arranging for more inter-availability between crafts, they have, in other connections, adopted an intransigent attitude. The Federation has made strong protests to the Operatives' Federation drawing attention to the dislocation of work caused by these inter-union disputes.

(Paras. 45-47)

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### Higher Education in Building.

The desirability of giving a more practical bias to the training of architectural students has been strongly emphasised in many quarters as a means of securing closer co-operation between builders and architects in the execution of contracts. In this connection in 1952 the Federation submitted a memorandum to the Joint Committee on Architectural Education in which it pointed out that experience on building sites and a general appreciation of the techniques of the building crafts would be of great value to the young architect. A conference convened by the Joint Consultative Committee (to be held in London on January 31) will, it is hoped, provide the impetus for some serious consideration and exploration of the possibility of combining, at least in the early stages, the training of those who are going into the professional side of the industry as architects with the training of those who intend to make a career in the management of building firms.

(Paras. 89-91)

### Board of Building Education.

Up to the present time there has been no central body, parallel to the Board of Architectural Education, which was in a position to take definite steps to foster and develop the education and practical training of the executive, administrative and managerial grades in the building industry. In March agreement was reached between the Federation and the Institute of Builders for the establishment at an early date of a Board of Building Education. The Board was duly established and held its inaugural meeting in September. As its first task the Board has prepared a survey of the educational system in England and Wales with particular reference to technical and especially building education.

(Paras. 92 and 93)

### Education and Training for Management.

Managerial training schemes, complete with registers of articulated pupils or students, are now established in three Regions and are partly established or under consideration in other Regions.

(Para. 94)

### Training of General Foremen.

The first examination in foremanship studies will be conducted by the City and Guilds of London Institute in June, 1956. Those successful in this and subsequent examinations will be awarded a City and Guilds of London Institute certificate in general foremanship studies. This certificate is intended to provide a qualification of national standing related to studies sponsored by the National Advisory Committee, but it will not purport to be a qualification entitling its possessor to an appointment as a general foreman irrespective of his industrial training and practical experience and his innate qualities of personality and character. It is hoped that in due course all men seeking positions as general foremen will have taken a certificate course, but other types of training, including

courses based on the 1948 syllabus, discussion groups and short residential courses, will be required for some years to come. The success of any scheme of training, however, depends upon the support and encouragement of all concerned in the training of general foremen. Realising this, the National Advisory Committee for the Training of General Foremen has included in its recently published Third Report certain recommendations for consideration by employers, general foremen and educationalists.

(Paras. 104 and 105)

### Costs and Finance.

The costs of house-building have continued to rise during the year. Between September, 1954, and September, 1955, the price of materials for house-building had risen, according to the official index, by about 5½ per cent., while over the same period the basic cost of labour rose by about 7 per cent. These increases have certainly not eased the task of the private house-builder and have indeed offset to a considerable extent the economies resulting from the more efficient programming of work which it has been possible to introduce since the abolition of licensing.

(Pages 54-57)

### Land Shortage.

The land problems of private builders are not eased by the decision of the Minister to extend the green belt policy to the whole of the country. While the importance of safeguarding natural amenities and preserving agricultural land is appreciated, housebuilders are faced with the practical difficulty that, unless land can be secured for development within reasonable distance of places of work, they will be unable to maintain a properly planned programme of production and this will undoubtedly influence the number of houses which private enterprise will be able to provide during the next few years. Another factor of great importance is that if large numbers of people employed in the cities and industrial areas have to be housed outside the existing or proposed green belts, not only is there increased strain on, and cost to, the individual concerned but also an increased burden is placed on public transport and on the roads. It must further be recognised that, where areas which might otherwise be developed for house-building are sterilised, this is likely to result in increasing the cost of such land as may remain free for development.

The high level of legal costs involved in house purchase has been a matter of considerable concern to the members of the Federation, whose customers are largely young people of modest means. While it is recognised that these are statutory charges which, under present regulations, the legal profession is entitled to levy, it has, however, been considered that the method of calculating fees under the Solicitors' Remuneration Orders is not really appropriate to the kind of transaction which takes place on the sale of a new house on a modern housing estate. This aspect of the problem was discussed by representatives of the Council with representatives of the Council of the Law Society in June, 1955. At the same time reference was made to the possibility, mentioned by Mr. Harold Macmillan when Minister of Housing, that building societies might be prepared to include these initial costs in their valuations for the purposes of loan advances. It is recognised that, while such an arrangement would no doubt ease the position by minimising the initial outlay for the house-purchaser, it would nevertheless tend to maintain the scale of charges at a level which seems unrealistically high in respect of estate development, where the legal work involved may well be to some extent repetitive.

With regard to stamp duty, some disappointment has been felt that no reference to this subject has been contained in the Spring and Autumn Budgets of 1955.

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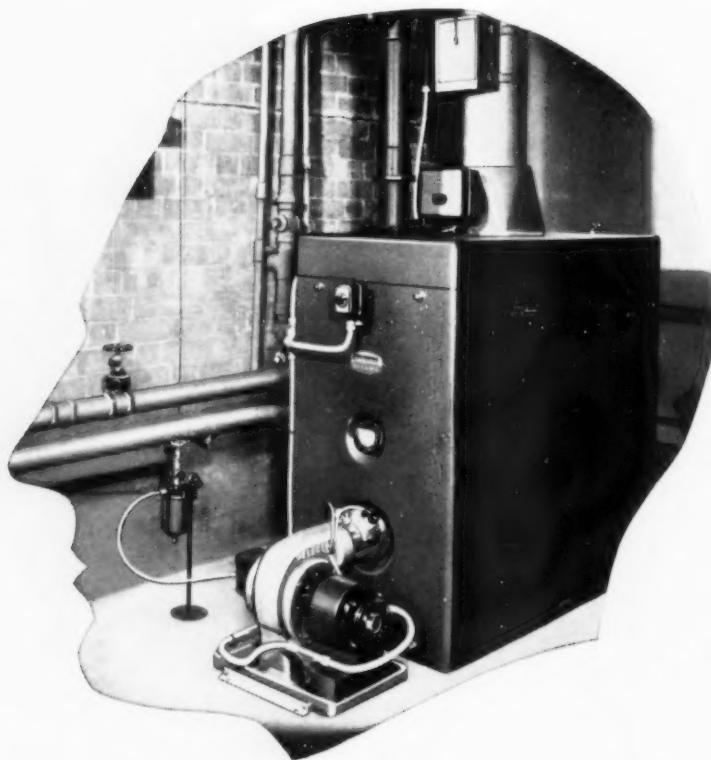
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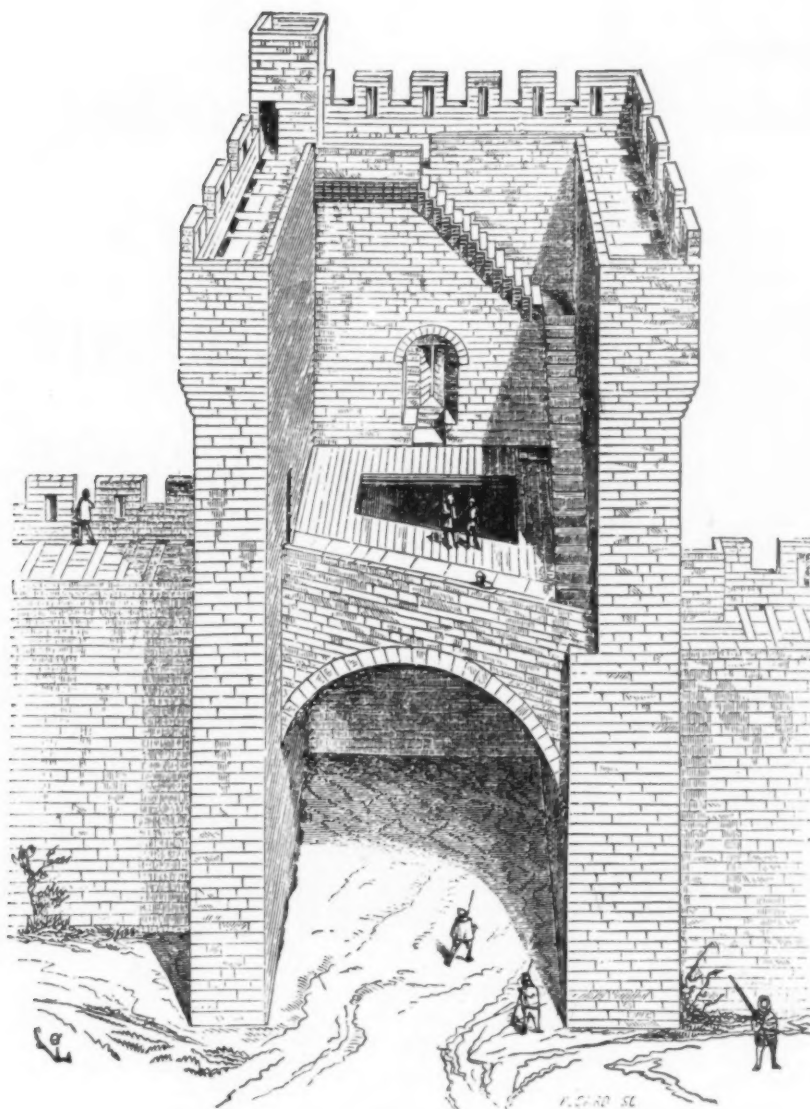
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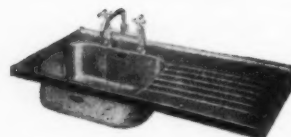
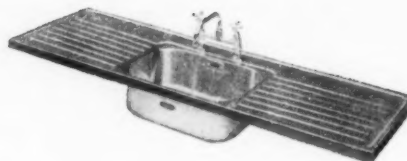
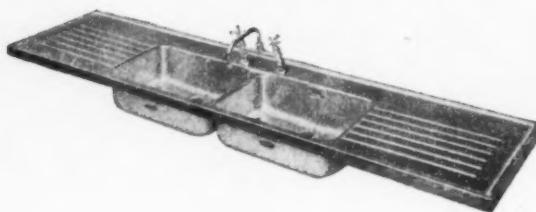
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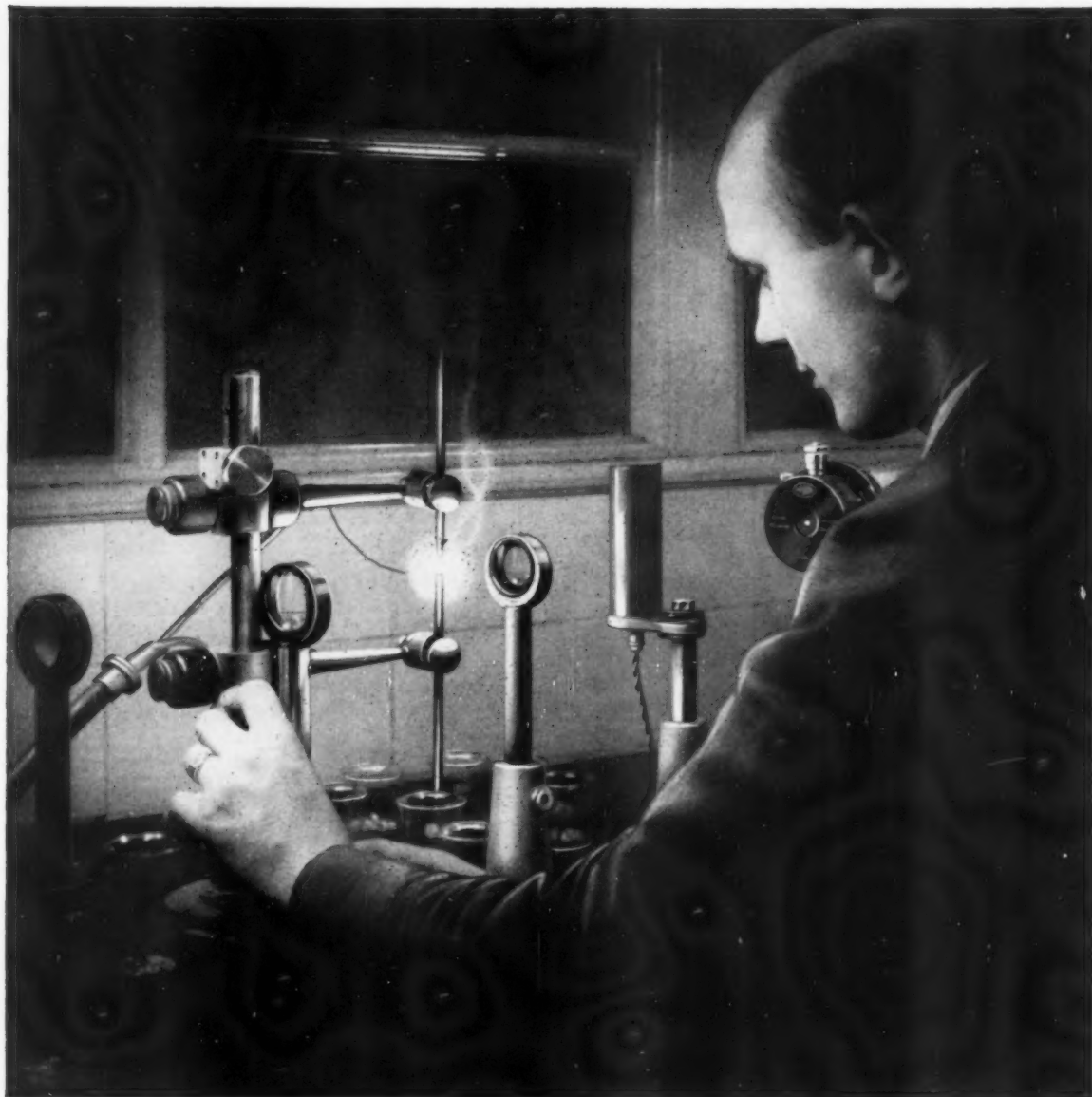
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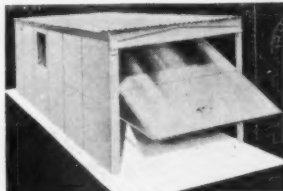
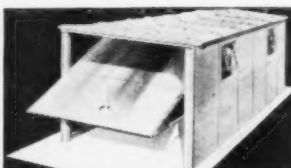
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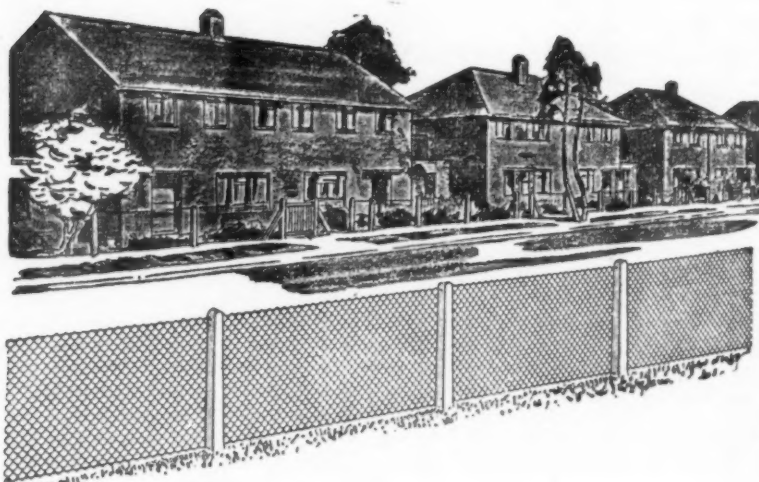
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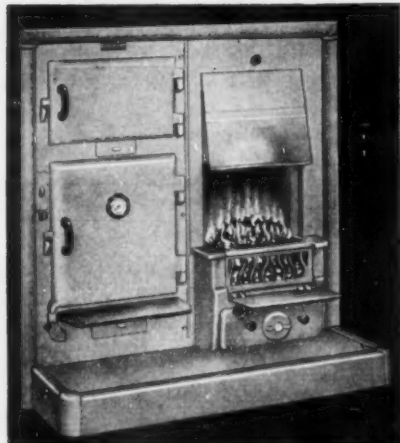
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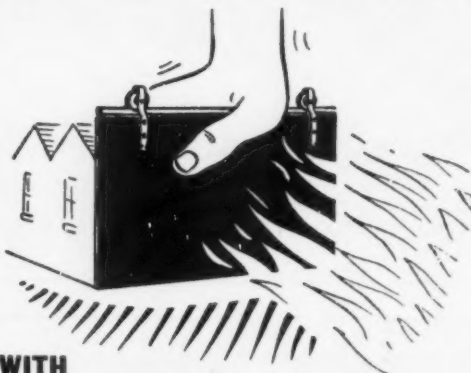
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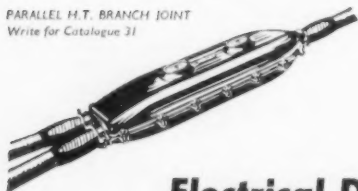


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